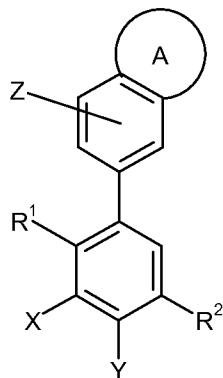


Amendments to the claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently amended) A compound of formula (I):



(I)

wherein

~~A is a fused 5-membered heteroaryl ring containing up to two heteroatom independently selected from oxygen, nitrogen or sulfur, optionally substituted by up to two substituents independently selected from C₁-6alkyl, (CH₂)_kC₃-7cycloalkyl, halogen, -CN, trifluoromethyl, -(CH₂)_kOR³, -(CH₂)_kCO₂R³, -(CH₂)_kNR³R⁴, -(CH₂)_kSO₂NR³R⁴, -(CH₂)_kNHSO₂R³, -(CH₂)_kSO₂(CH₂)_mR⁵, a 5- or 6-membered heterocyclyl ring containing nitrogen optionally substituted by C₁-2alkyl or -(CH₂)_kCO₂R³, and a 5-membered heteroaryl ring optionally substituted by C₁-2alkyl; or~~

~~A is a fused 5-membered heteroaryl ring containing up to two heteroatom independently selected from oxygen, nitrogen or sulfur substituted by -B¹R⁶, and A is optionally further substituted by one substituent selected from -OR⁷, halogen, trifluoromethyl, -CN, -CO₂R⁷ and C₁-6alkyl optionally substituted by hydroxy; or~~

~~A is a fused 5-membered heteroaryl ring containing up to two heteroatom independently selected from oxygen, nitrogen or sulfur substituted by -(CH₂)_nheterocyclyl wherein the heterocyclyl is a 5- or 6-membered heterocyclic ring containing one or two heteroatoms independently selected from oxygen, sulfur and nitrogen optionally substituted by up to two substituents independently selected from oxo, C₁-6alkyl, OR⁷, -NR⁷R⁸ and -CONR⁷R⁸, and A is optionally further substituted by one substituent selected from -OR⁷, halogen, trifluoromethyl, -CN, -CO₂R⁷ and C₁-6alkyl optionally substituted by hydroxy; or~~

A is a fused 5-membered heteroaryl ring containing up to two heteroatom independently selected from oxygen, nitrogen or sulfur substituted by $-(CH_2)_q$ aryl or $-(CH_2)_q$ heteroaryl wherein the aryl or heteroaryl is optionally substituted by one or more substituents independently selected from oxo, C₁-6alkyl, halogen, -CN, trifluoromethyl, -OR⁹, $-(CH_2)_rCO_2R^{10}$, -NR⁹R¹⁰, $-(CH_2)_rCONR^9R^{10}$, -NHCOR⁹, -SO₂NR⁹R¹⁰, -NHSO₂R⁹ and -S(O)₈R⁹, and A is optionally further substituted by one substituent selected from -OR⁷, halogen, trifluoromethyl, -CN, -CO₂R⁷ and C₁-6alkyl optionally substituted by hydroxy;

R¹ is selected from methyl and chloro;

R² is selected from -NH-CO-R¹¹ and -CO-NH-(CH₂)_t-R¹²;

~~R³ is selected from hydrogen, C₁-6alkyl optionally substituted by up to two OH groups, (CH₂)_k-C₃-7cycloalkyl, (CH₂)_kphenyl optionally substituted by R¹³ and/or R¹⁴ and (CH₂)_kheteroaryl optionally substituted by R¹³ and/or R¹⁴,~~

~~R⁴ is selected from hydrogen and C₁-6alkyl, or~~

~~R³ and R⁴, together with the nitrogen atom to which they are bound, form a 5 or 6 membered heterocyclic ring optionally containing one additional heteroatom selected from oxygen, sulfur and N-R¹⁵;~~

~~R⁵ is selected from C₁-6alkyl optionally substituted by up to three halogen atoms, C₂-6alkenyl optionally substituted by phenyl, C₃-7cycloalkyl, heteroaryl optionally substituted by up to three R¹³ and/or R¹⁴ groups, and phenyl optionally substituted by R¹³ and/or R¹⁴;~~

R⁶ is a C₃-6alkyl group substituted by at least two substituents independently selected from -OR¹⁶, -NR¹⁶R¹⁷, -CO₂R¹⁶, -CONR¹⁶R¹⁷, -NHCOR¹⁶ and -NHSO₂R¹⁶;

R⁷ and R⁸ are each independently selected from hydrogen and C₁-6alkyl;

R⁹ is selected from hydrogen, -(CH₂)_u-C₃-7cycloalkyl, -(CH₂)_uheterocyclyl, -(CH₂)_uaryl, and C₁-6alkyl optionally substituted by up to two substituents independently selected from -OR¹⁸ and -NR¹⁸R¹⁹,

R¹⁰ is selected from hydrogen and C₁-6alkyl, or

R⁹ and R¹⁰, together with the nitrogen atom to which they are bound, form a 5- or 6-membered heterocyclic ring optionally containing one additional heteroatom selected from oxygen, sulfur and N-R¹⁵;

R¹¹ is selected from hydrogen, C₁₋₆alkyl, -(CH₂)_t-C₃₋₇cycloalkyl, trifluoromethyl, -(CH₂)_vheteroaryl optionally substituted by R²⁰ and/or R²¹, and -(CH₂)_vphenyl optionally substituted by R²⁰ and/or R²¹;

R¹² is selected from hydrogen, C₁₋₆alkyl, C₃₋₇cycloalkyl, -CONHR²², phenyl optionally substituted by R²⁰ and/or R²¹, and heteroaryl optionally substituted by R²⁰ and/or R²¹;

~~R¹³ and R¹⁴ are each independently selected from halogen, CN, trifluoromethyl, nitro, C₁₋₆alkyl, C₁₋₆alkoxy, CONR²²R²³, COR²⁴, CO₂R²⁴, and heteroaryl, or~~

~~R¹³ and R¹⁴ are linked to form a fused 5-membered heterocyclic ring containing one heteroatom selected from oxygen, sulfur and N-R¹⁵, or a fused heteroaryl ring;~~

R¹⁵ is selected from hydrogen and methyl;

R¹⁶, R¹⁷, R¹⁸ and R¹⁹ are each independently selected from hydrogen and C₁₋₆alkyl;

R²⁰ is selected from C₁₋₆alkyl, C₁₋₆alkoxy, -(CH₂)_t-C₃₋₇cycloalkyl, -CONR²²R²³, -NHCOR²³, halogen, -CN, -(CH₂)_wNR²⁵R²⁶, trifluoromethyl, phenyl optionally substituted by one or more R²¹ groups, and heteroaryl optionally substituted by one or more R²¹ groups;

R²¹ is selected from C₁₋₆alkyl, C₁₋₆alkoxy, halogen, trifluoromethyl, and -(CH₂)_wNR²⁵R²⁶;

R²² and R²³ are each independently selected from hydrogen and C₁₋₆alkyl, or

R²² and R²³, together with the nitrogen atom to which they are bound, form a 5- or 6-membered heterocyclic ring optionally containing one additional heteroatom selected from oxygen, sulfur and N-R¹⁵, wherein the ring may be substituted by up to two C₁₋₆alkyl groups;

~~R²⁴ is C₁₋₆alkyl;~~

R²⁵ is selected from hydrogen, C₁₋₆alkyl and -(CH₂)_t-C₃₋₇cycloalkyl optionally substituted by C₁₋₆alkyl,

R²⁶ is selected from hydrogen and C₁₋₆alkyl, or

R²⁵ and R²⁶, together with the nitrogen atom to which they are bound, form a 5- or 6-membered heterocyclic ring optionally containing one additional heteroatom selected from oxygen, sulfur and N-R¹⁵;

R²⁷ is hydrogen or C₁₋₆alkyl;

B¹ is selected from a bond, oxygen, NH and S(O)_X;

X and Y are each independently selected from hydrogen, methyl and halogen;
Z is selected from halogen, C₁₋₆alkyl and -OR²⁷;
[[k,]] m and w are each independently selected from 0, 1, 2 and 3;
n, q, r, s, t and x are each independently selected from 0, 1 and 2; and
u and v are each independently selected from 0 and 1;
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

2. (original) A compound according to claim 1 wherein A is a fused 5-membered heteroaryl ring containing up to two heteroatoms independently selected from oxygen and nitrogen.

3. (Previously presented) A compound according to claim 1 wherein A is substituted by -(CH₂)_qaryl or -(CH₂)_qheteroaryl wherein the aryl or heteroaryl is optionally substituted by one or more substituents independently selected from oxo, C₁₋₆alkyl, halogen, -CN, trifluoromethyl, -OR⁹, -(CH₂)_rCO₂R¹⁰, -NR⁹R¹⁰, -(CH₂)_rCONR⁹R¹⁰, -NHCOR⁹, -SO₂NR⁹R¹⁰, -NHSO₂R⁹ and -S(O)_sR⁹.

4. (Previously presented) A compound according to claim 1 wherein R¹ is methyl.

5. (Previously presented) A compound according to claim 1 wherein R² is -CO-NH-(CH₂)_t-R¹².

6. (Previously presented) A compound according to claim 1 wherein X is hydrogen or fluorine.

7. (Previously presented) A compound according to claim 1 which is
N-Cyclopropyl-3-[5-fluoro-3-(4-pyridinyl)-1H-indazol-6-yl]-4-methylbenzamide;
N-Cyclopropyl-3-[5-fluoro-3-(1-oxido-4-pyridinyl)-1H-indazol-6-yl]-4-methylbenzamide;
N-Cyclopropyl-3-fluoro-5-[5-fluoro-3-(4-pyridinyl)-1,2-benzisoxazol-6-yl]-4-methylbenzamide;
N-Cyclopropyl-3-fluoro-5-[5-fluoro-3-(1-oxido-4-pyridinyl)-1,2-benzisoxazol-6-yl]-4-methylbenzamide;
N-Ethyl-3-{5-fluoro-3-[6-(methyloxy)-3-pyridinyl]-1H-indazol-6-yl}-4-methylbenzamide;
3-[3-(6-Chloro-3-pyridinyl)-5-fluoro-1H-indazol-6-yl]-N-ethyl-4-methylbenzamide;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

8. (Previously presented) A compound which is:

N-cyclopropyl-3-[5-fluoro-3-(4-pyridinyl)-1*H*-indazol-6-yl]-4-methylbenzamide; or

N-cyclopropyl-3-fluoro-5-[5-fluoro-3-(4-pyridinyl)-1,2-benzisoxazol-6-yl]-4-methylbenzamide;

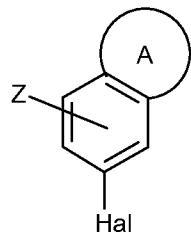
or a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof.

9. (Previously presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising at least one compound as claimed in claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof, in association with one or more pharmaceutically acceptable excipients, diluents and/or carriers.

10 to 13. (cancelled)

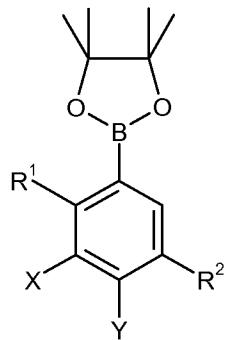
14. (Previously presented) A process for preparing a compound of formula (I) as claimed in claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, which comprises

(a) reacting a compound of formula (II)

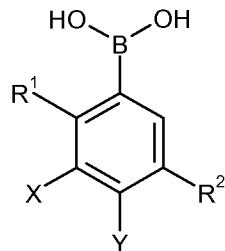


(II)

in which A is defined in claim 1 and Hal is halogen,
with a compound of formula (IIIA) or (IIIB)



(IIIA)



(IIIB)

in which R¹, R², X and Y are as defined in claim 1,
in the presence of a catalyst, or

(b) final stage modification of one compound of formula (I) as defined in claim 1 to give another compound of formula (I) as defined in claim 1.

15. (Previously presented) A compound according to claim 3 wherein A is substituted by -(CH₂)_qheteroaryl wherein the heteroaryl is optionally substituted by one or more substituents independently selected from oxo, C₁-6alkyl, halogen, -CN, trifluoromethyl, -OR⁹, -(CH₂)_rCO₂R¹⁰, -NR⁹R¹⁰, -(CH₂)_rCONR⁹R¹⁰, -NHCOR⁹, -SO₂NR⁹R¹⁰, -NHSO₂R⁹ and -S(O)₈R⁹.

16. (Previously presented) A compound according to claim 15 wherein R¹ is methyl.

17. (Previously presented) A compound according to claim 15 wherein R² is -CO-NH-(CH₂)_t-R¹².

18. (Previously presented) A compound according to claim 15 wherein X is hydrogen or fluorine.

19 (Currently amended). A compound according to Claim 15 wherein the 5-membered ring fused to the phenyl ring is an indazole.

20. (Previously presented) A compound according to Claim 15 wherein the heteroaryl is a 5- or 6-membered heteroaryl ring containing up to two heteroatoms independently selected from oxygen and nitrogen.

21. (Previously presented) A compound according to Claim 20 wherein the heteroaryl ring is a pyridyl.

22. (Previously presented) A compound according to Claim 21 wherein q is 0.

23. (Previously presented) A compound according to Claim 1 wherein Z is a halogen.

24 (Previously presented). A compound according to Claim 1 wherein the 5-membered ring A fused to the phenyl ring is an optionally substituted isoxazolyl, indazole, pyrazolyl or pyrrolyl.

25 (New). A compound according to Claim 24 wherein the 5-membered ring A fused to the phenyl ring is an optionally substituted isoxazolyl.

26 (New). A compound according to Claim 24 wherein the 5-membered ring A fused to the phenyl ring is an optionally substituted indazole.